ARIZONA STATE HOSPITAL

Poetry

2022

Volume 2

VOLUME 2 2022

ARIZONA STATE HOSPITAL
POETRY COLLECTION

POETRY BY

INDIVIDUALS LIVING ON THE ARIZONA STATE HOSPITAL CIVIL CAMPUS

compiled by rehab staff

INTRODUCTION

This anthology includes works individuals have completed while in attendance of several creative writing rehab groups on the civil campus in 2022.

Works have been selected by staff members from a monthly vote held across multiple Arizona State Hospital campuses to determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Honorable mentions for each month have also been included.

POEMS

JANUARY

COUNTRYSIDE

MY SPECIAL PLACE ON EARTH.
I MAKE COOKIES AND LEMONADE ON
A SUNNY DAY.
A NIGHT OWL SLEEPS ON THIS
SLEEPY DAY.

1ST PLACE

CIVIL RIGHTS DAY - HAIKUS

ON CIVIL RIGHTS DAY,
LET NO ONE BE FORGOTTEN.
BLACK LIVES MATTER STILL.

ON THESE PRINCIPLES,
WE BUILD OUR FAITH YET STRONGER,
BLESSING ALL PEOPLE.

2ND PLACE

JANUARY

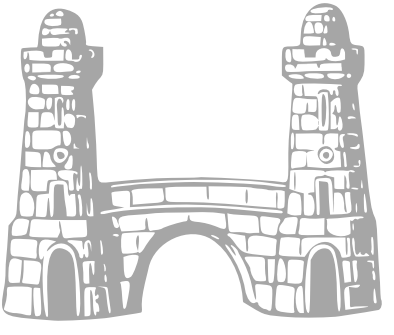
SPEAK

I HAD A PET WHO LOVED THE TREES.
HE DIED WITH A SMOKE IN HIS MOUTH
AND HE SAID HE WAS SET FREE.

3RD PLACE

SOLDIERS

ARMY THAT IS STRONG.
BROTHERHOOD IS NEVER WRONG.
THE OFFICERS' CLUB HAS PING PONG.



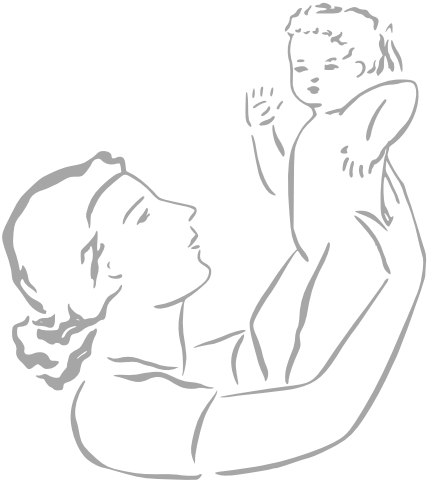
CASTLE

STRENGTH AND HONOR MAKE HARMONY,
WHEN THEY GO HAND IN HAND.
WITH THIS HERO IN HIS STATUESQUE STAKE,
VICTORY RIDE INTO BATTLE.
THIS SOLDIER KNEW HE'D GO DOWN IN HISTORY.

JANUARY

SERIOUS OR TRIVIAL

MAKE NO SENSE BUT BE READY.
WAIT TO GO OR PLAY FOLLY.



BECOMING

HOW DOES THE BABY SURVIVE IN THE WOMB?
THINGS ARE JUST MEANT TO BE.
MOTHER NATURE TAKES ITS COURSE.
THE WAY THE EMBRYO AND THE OVUM WAS SPECIAL,
FOR A SPECIAL TIME TO GIVE LIFE.
THE WAY LIFE WAS AND NEEDED TO BE.
THE SIGHT OF PURE EMOTION,
A MOTHER WILL NEVER FORGET.

JANUARY

OVERCOME

THE PURPOSE OF TRYING IS TO LEARN BY YOUR MISTAKES.
FAITH IS TRYING TO BELIEVE IN ONE OR ANOTHER BELIEF.
FAITH IS BELIEVING IN SOMETHING AND DEVELOPING A WORSHIP.
WORSHIP IS TO BELIEVE IN THINGS THAT REMAIN AS A CONSTANT FOR YOU.
ACCOUNT FOR YOUR MISTAKES IF YOU'RE HAVING TO CATCH A PROBLEM.

STONEHENGE

ROCK IS OLD,
ORANGE BATHES THEIR CLOTHES.
TWILIGHT IS SOFT TO THE EYE,
MYSTICAL POWER WILL FRY.
CLOCKWORK FLOWERS.

FEBRUARY

ARMY IN A BOX

LOOKS SLYER THAN A FOX,
AN ARMY IN A BOX.
CHINESE CHESS IS PLAYED ON ONLY
HALF THE BOARD,
WITH WEAPONS, CHARIOTS AND
SOLDIERS. AND SUCH A HOARD,
AS THE EMPEROR COULD AFFORD.

1ST PLACE

VALENTINE

LOVE.
OVERWHELMED,
VOLUNTARILY
ENVELOPED.

2ND PLACE

FEBRUARY

YEAR OF THE TIGER -

CELEBRATE THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

THE BIG STRIPED CATS ARE SO BEAUTIFUL, THEY CHUFF TO GREET YOU.

IN THIS DAY AND AGE, SIEGFRIED AND ROY HAD MORE THAN TWO.

GROWING TIGER'S ARE HAND FED BY GOOD TRAINERS.

EXCELLENT TIGER, PLEASE DON'T EAT YOUR TRAINER.

ROYAL TIGERS, OH SO GREAT, WATCH THEM AT THE CIRCUS.

SEE THE WHITE TIGER AS WELL, SUCH GRACE.

3RD PLACE

FEBRUARY

THE EINTOU POEM -
CELEBRATE AFRICAN AMERICAN ART

OCEAN PACIFIC
HIGH WAVES
ROLL LOUDLY AND
CRASH INTO THE TURNING
TIDE THAT PULLS THEM OUT TO JUST
REPEAT THE SAME CYCLE
OVER, OVER.
ENDLESS.

SHEN-YUN

SHEN-YUN DANCES ACROSS THE WAY,
GRACEFULLY LEAPING, STREAMING ALONG.
DOING CARTWHEELS AND FLIPS, I DO SAY.
SHEN-YUN GLANCES AT ME AT THE END OF THE SONG.

FEBRUARY

THE EINTOU POEM -
CELEBRATE AFRICAN AMERICAN ART

FREEDOM.
POWER
OF THE PEOPLE.
LONGING TO BELONG NOW.
FREEDOM TO DIE FOR, TO PASS ON.
NO SLAVERY AT ALL.
LOVE YOUR COUNTRY.
FREEDOM.

LEPRECHAUNS

LEPRECHAUNS STEAL.
LEPRECHAUNS COLLECT.
LEPRECHAUNS ARE AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW
WITH A POT OF GOLD.
SOMETIMES HIDDEN UNDERGROUND
SO FAR THAT ITS UNTOLD.
LEPRECHAUNS HIDE SO YOU CAN'T GET THEIR GOLD.
LEPRECHAUNS ARE TRICKY LITTLE CREATURES.
LEPRECHAUNS ARE TINY ABOUT THE SIZE OF A CAT.
THEY WEAR A BLACK BELT ON THEIR GREEN HAT.
THEY WEAR POINTY SHOES THAT ARE THE SAME COLOR
AS THE BELT ON THEIR OUTFIT OF GREEN FELT.

FEBRUARY

RESPECT

GIVE RESPECT TO GET RESPECT.
IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO, DO GO AHEAD
AND ASK FOR ADVICE.
'CAUSE IF YOU ASK FOR ADVICE
YOU GET MORE
THANK WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.

LOVER'S DAY

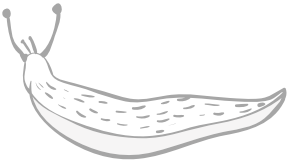
VALENTINE'S
ALLOWS
LOVE.
ETERNALLY
NOTING
TENDERNESS.
INTERNALLY
NOTING
ENJOYMENT.

MARCH

JUNGLE

IN THIS ANCIENT JUNGLE PARADISE,
ASTOUNDING GREEN MOSSY ROCKS
HELP THE LOST TRAVELER SUFFICE.
THIS GORGEOUS SCENERY,
AND ALL OF THE REST OF THE JUNGLE'S
INTERESTING GREENERY.

1ST PLACE



BOBBY THE SLUG - CELEBRATE DR. SEUSS'S BIRTHDAY

THERE IS A BUG NAMED MR. BUG.
HE SITS ON A RUG,
RIGHT NEXT TO A SLUG.
HE BUGS THE SLUG,
WHO SITS ON HIS GREEN RUG,
EATING AND TAKING A DRUG, YUM
YUM.

2ND PLACE

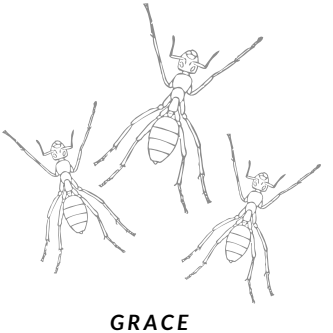
MARCH

DOUBLE HAIKU'S

CHRISTIAN ANT, I AM.
I LIVE IN A NEST OF FRIENDS.
MY PINCHERS GRAB GEMS.

RED ANTS ARE SO ROUGH.
RED ANTS ARE SO STRONG AND TOUGH.
THEY CARRY A LOT.

3RD PLACE



GRACE

LOUD THEY SNARL.
GRACEFULLY THEY TROT.
LIGHT ON THEIR LEGS.
POWERFUL ARE THE JAWS.
SHARP IS THE BITE.
A HUNTER'S MEAN STREAK.
BY PAIRS THEY ROAM.

MARCH

AN ODE TO MY HEART,

THAT PUMPS BLOOD-HEMOGLOBIN-THAT
ACTIONS OXYGEN THROUGH THE BODY.
WHEN I SEE MY EYES CHANGING COLOR,
I THINK "LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE!"
THANK YOU FOR EVERY BREATH I TAKE
AND THE CHANGING COLOR OF MY EYES,
YOU SHOW FOR THE WORLD TO SEE.
YOU ARE SINGING AND
FOR YOU I DANCE.

MAGICAL FLUTE

THERE ONCE WAS A LEPRECHAUN FROM IRELAND,
EVERYDAY HE WOULD PLAY HIS MAGICAL FLUTE.
BUT WHENEVER SOMEONE DIDN'T LISTEN, HE'D GET MAD!
THE IRISH LEPRECHAUN WOULD BREATH FIRE
THAT CONSUMED THAT PERSON FROM THE EARTH.

MARCH

HARRIET TUBMAN - CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HARRIET TUBMAN'S PERSISTENT ROAD TO FREEDOM
MADE HER ACT BRAVELY WHEN CONFEDERATES WOULD COME.
SOMEWHAT GANGSTER TOO, SHE DIDN'T FOOL AROUND
BUT SHE WAS NICE TO ALL THOSE ON COMMON GROUND.

I AM

I AM A WARRIOR AND A CHAMPION.
I WONDER "WHAT IF…"
I HEAR WHAT WAS TOLD OF ME, AS I DO THE DO.
I AM THE VICTOR.
I PRETEND TO BE/PLAY.
I FEEL SUPER AND LONELY.
I TOUCH THE FEELS.
I WORRY THE MOST WITHOUT, NO DOUBT.
I AM FULL OF BLUE ENERGY.
I UNDERSTAND THE SEEN AND UNSEEN.
I SAY THE PROBLEM WAS EVIL.
I DREAM THE UNDREAM.
I TRY TO UNLOCK THE MISPLACEMENT OF LIGHT.
I HOPE TO FEEL THE ONE.
I AM THE ONE.

MARCH

DEAR BIRTHDAY BOY DR. SEUSS,

YOU DO LOTS OF BODY WORK OUT.
HE LOOKS FINE AND GOOD LOOKIN' AS HE WALKS ABOUT.

THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT

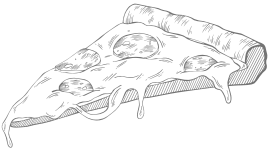
YEARS AGO, THE TWO WERE IN A REAL GREAT, GREAT BOAT OFF TO LONDON TO SEE THE SCENE.
WHEN IN LONDON, THE PUSSYCAT MET O'MALLEY IN THE ALLEY.
THE CAT'S ORANGE, THE TOM CAT WITH HER, FLAME POINT BABY!
SO WHEN YOUR CAT WANDERS OFF AND MAKES ITS WAY TO ENGLAND...
FLAME POINT KITTENS!
THE OWL CALLS WHO, WHO, WHO BY THE BARNS IN THE COUNTRY.
SO HERE WE GO, OWL TO OWL, WE SIT BY EACH OTHER, SAYING YOU'RE SORRY? BOAT TO AMERICA?
SO WHO, WHO, WHO WE MUST MEET IN CAIRO.
WHO KNEW, WHO, WHOOOO?

APRIL

KEEP IT SECRET

WE'RE TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA
TURTLES.
JUMPIN' OVER LIFE'S HURDLES,
TO SAVE PEOPLE'S LIVES
AND EAT PIZZA PIES!

1ST PLACE



DOVE

WHEN I SEE A DOVE
IT REMINDS ME OF HEAVEN'S
ABOVE
IT'S BETTER TO BE LATE TO
HEAVEN'S GATE
THAN TO LOSE AT LOVE THAT
MIGHT TURN TO HATE
BE PREPARED TO BE JUDGED
AND ENTER INTO ETERNITY.

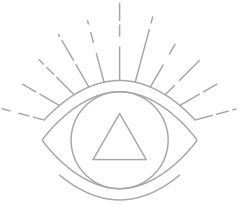
2ND PLACE

APRIL

FRIENDSHIP

WHEN YOU NEED A FRIEND, IT FEELS
NICE. YOU CAN PLAN ON THE FUTURE
TOGETHER.
YOU CAN BE ACCEPTED BY PEOPLE
TOO. COMPLIMENTS FEEL NICE
THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT
AND FEELS GOOD TOO.
BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE
BEHOLDER.
TALK TO SOMEONE, ALWAYS KEEP
MOST OF IT PRIVATE.
AN ANIMAL HELPS COMFORT YOU,
LIKE YOUR FRIENDS ALWAYS DO.
SO BE A FRIEND OR DO WHAT YOU
MOST LIKE TOAND IT WILL FEEL
BETTER.

3RD PLACE



APRIL

SAVIOR ROBOT

I ROBOT WAS A SAVIOR ROBOT,
HE KEPT PEACE IN EYE SHOT.
HE WAS THE TOWN'S MASCOT.

HE SEES HIS PICTURE IN LAKES.
A LOT OF COURAGE IT TAKES,

TO HELP PEOPLE HE CARED ABOUT,
AND MAKE SURE THEY DON'T POUT.

SO THEY'D KNOW THAT HE WAS STRONG.
HE PROVED THEY WERE NEVER WRONG.

POETRY

TIME IS NEAR.
TIME IS FEAR.
HEAVEN IS CURE.

APRIL

THE GRAND CANYON, AZ - THE LARGEST LAND GORGE

IF YOU DON'T PASS OVER THE TRAIL BY
HANDRAIL,
OR DONKEY,
OR MULE,
IT'S YOU THAT YOU KILL.
AND THE STRONG HEARTED WILL,
BRING ENOUGH MONEY,
TO PAY THE BILL.

BREACH - CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

ICEBERGS ARE THE BACKDROP OF WHALES
EMERGING FOR BREATHS.
THE WHALE'S TAIL LOVINGLY FLIPS BACK DOWN
AS IT DESCENDS BACK INTO THE DEPTHS.

APRIL

OUR PLANET - CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

COUNSELED TO STOP THE WASTE.
THE WARMING OF THE EARTH MUST STOP.
RETURN TO NATURE.
MINIATURIZE THE DAMAGE AND
REVERSE THE POLLUTION.

SHINE

IN THERE HAS TO BE AN INVISIBLE SUN,
SPREADS ITS HEAT TO EVERYONE.

BREACH - CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

COLD ICEBERGS FLOAT AWAY,
THEY CREATE MORE SPACE FOR WHALES.
PEOPLE SHOW ALL TYPES OF LOVE FOR THE WHALE,
EVEN THE TAIL.
WHEN IT COMES UP THROUGH THE WATER,
IT IS BREATHTAKING.

MAY

OUTSIDER LET ME IN

THE SUN SHINES ON THEE.
WHY NOT ME?
PENCIL ME IN.
MY AWARENESS CAN GET ENOUGH
FROM MANY YEARS OF GROWING.
CHUMP CHAIN FOR SALE,
DOUBLE THE PRICE,
3X THE FREEDOM.
BURY A PEBBLE IN THE SAND
AND WATER IT FOR A NEW LIFE.
TAKE MY ADVICE,
DON'T BE STUBBORN,
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.
SO SOMETHING WILL GROW OUT OF
THE RUBBLE.

1ST PLACE

MAY

SUNSET TAXI

HUSTLE FOR A DAILY LIVING,
GOING TO THE LATE NIGHT SHOWS.
CAR MOVING SLOWLY DOWN THE ROAD,
TAXI HAILED BY A YOUNG LADY,
BARREN ARE THE STREETS,
A DARK, EMPTY WAR RAGES AFTER MIDNIGHT.

2ND PLACE

TORTOISE, COURT US

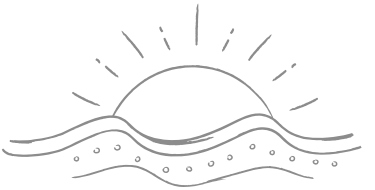
IN THE SEA,
SWIMS A BEAUTIFUL TORTOISE.
BRING WITH US THE AQUA FORTIS,
TO ESCORT US.

3RD PLACE

MAY

OLD MAZATLAN

ON THE ASPECT OF THE BEAUTIFUL COLORS OF
THE MAZATLAN'S WATERS:
THE SANDS HELD MARVELOUS TRADITIONS.
THAT SURPASSED MANKIND AND TIME.
IT REGISTERS WHEN VISITED.



ENERGY FOR THE GOOD

HE HAS NATURAL POWERS OF STRENGTH AND BRAVERY.
HE IS VERY SAVOIR-Y.
HE DOESN'T WANT SATAN TO TAKE OVER US.
HE DOES IT WITHOUT A FUSS.
AND HE NEVER THINKS MEAN.
HE HAS MIRACLES.
HE MAKES LIFE A DREAM.
HIS HANDS ARE STEEL, LIKE ARMOR.
HIS HANDS PROTECT ALL PEOPLE AND DON'T GET SORE.
HE BELIEVES IN US ALL AND WE BELIEVE IN HIM.
HE WILL ALWAYS WIN.

MAY

SONORA

CORTES, TO WHOSE FATE FELL UPON MANY.
OTHERS ARRIVED TO CHANGE THE LAND.
RATHER THAN JUST WAR, CORTES BROUGHT DEATH TO SOME.
TESTING THE FAITH OF MANY WAS THE JOB OF CORTES.
ESCAPING HIS SIEGE WAS NOT POSSIBLE.
SACRIFICE ON DIFFERENT SCALES.

MORNING RAIN

A FEW DAYS,
HARD AND RAINY DAYS,
BESTOWED UPON US THIS FUTURE ANIME.
SMILES AND CARTOONS,
BREAKING THE PAGE OF THIS NEWSPAPER,
WAKE ME UP ON A SUNDAY.

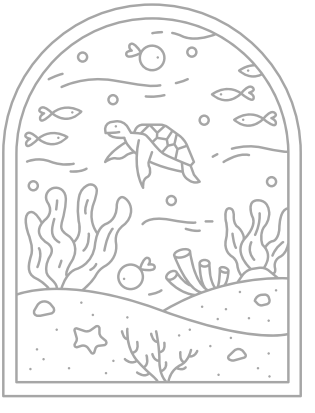
SOAR

WHERE EAGLES DARE.
EAGLES LEAVE THE NEST TO HUNT,
SEARCHING EAGERLY FOR THEIR LITTLE RUNTS.
THE MOST AMAZING THING IS WHEN AN EAGLE CATCHES PREY,
TO BRING ON HOME TO THE NEST WHERE HER CHICKS LAY.

MAY

ENTER THIS DESERTED HOUSE

THIS HOUSE WAS FULL OF GRACE, BEAUTIFUL.
THEN THE ECONOMY FELL.
AS DID THE CONDITION OF THE HOUSE.
MAKE A HOLE,
WATCH FROM THE HEART FOR A MOLE.
BUT IT'S NOT THE SAME STOLE
OF EMERALD & DIAMOND.



WINDING CURRENTS

LONG LIVED SWIMMER.
LIVES OVER 100 YEARS.
NO VISIBLE EARS.
ENCASED IN A HARD SHELL.
IN THE OCEAN IT SWIMS WELL.

JUNE

BLUE

I LOVE THE COLOR BLUE.
LIKE THE OCEAN LAYING FLAT.
LIKE A BLUE HAT.
LIKE A DARK BLUE CAR
OR BLUE JELLYBEANS IN A JAR.
LIKE A BLUE SUIT
OR BLUE COWBOY BOOTS.
LIKE A BLUE TRUCK
OR A BLUE HORSESHOE FOR LUCK.
LIKE A NAVY BLUE PAIR OF SHOES
BUT I LIKE LIGHT BLUE TOO.
I LIKE A LOT OF BLUE IN MY LIFE.
BLUE HELPS CALM THE STRIFE.

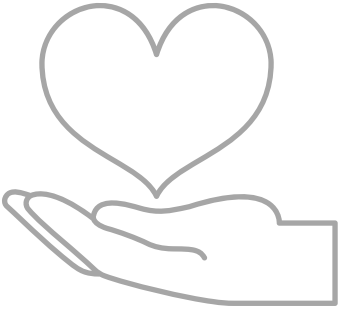
1ST PLACE

JUNE

WELL

I AM LUCKY TO BE ALIVE.
MY LIFE IS LIKE A MERRY-GO-ROUND.
I AM WELL,
AT THE TOP OF MY EMOTIONS AND
OTHERS ENVY.
SO EVERY STEP I TAKE,
I'M WELL AND WIDE AWAKE.
WHEN I DO SOMETHING,
NOTHING STOPS ME.
HELPING PEOPLE AND MAKING THEM
SMILE.
IT'S ALL WORTHWHILE.
I AM ONE WITH NO PROBLEMS.

2ND PLACE

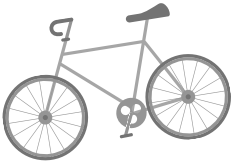


JUNE

MY BIKE

I LIKE MY BIKE,
IT'S ALWAYS FUN TO TAKE A HIKE.
BUT I DID HIT A SPIKE
AND DON'T RIDE ANYMORE.
BETTER TIMES WITHOUT A BIKE!

3RD PLACE



ARCTIC FOX

I LOVE MY FOX RACE.
MY ARCTIC FOX'S FACE.
THIS IS MY FOX'S PLACE

CHIMPANZEE

WHAT DOES HE HEAR?
WHAT DOES HE SEE?
WHAT DOES HE FEEL?
MAYBE HE CAN'T.
WHY DON'T I HEAR HIM?
MAYBE I'M A CHIMPANZEE.
I'LL GO TO THE CHIMPANZEE ZOO.

JUNE

ZION

THE COLOSSAL MOUNTAINS THAT SCRAPE THE SKY.
MAKES ME WANT TO DANCE TO THE NATIVE SPIRIT DRUM BEAT.
PARTY OVER HERE, PARTY OVER THERE
ROCKIN' TO THE BEAT.
DA HA, DA HA, DA HA HA HA HA HA.
PARTY OVER HERE, PARTY OVER THERE
ROCKIN' TO THE BEAT.

PRIDE MONTH HAIKU ~ GREEN FOR NATURE

THE WILD CALLED ME.
SO MUCH OUT THERE TO DO,
SEE.THERE WAS NO FEE.

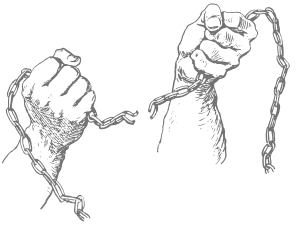
JUNE 25TH: DAY OF THE SEAFARER ~ PERSEVERANCE

SHACKELTON PREVAILED AGAINST ALL ODDS.
STARVING AND FREEZING HE NARROWLY ESCAPED WITH HIS LIFE.
SO MUCH STRIFE.
HE IS NOW A LEGENDARY FIGURE, EVERYONE THAT AGREES, NODS.

JUNE

CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH ~ HALLOWED GROUND

THE BLOODY CIVIL WAR,
UNION AGAINST CONFEDERATE.
DEATH WAS NECESSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY TO SURVIVE.
POINTLESS BECAUSE ALL SHOULD BE AGAINST SLAVERY.
MANY LOST THEIR LIVES AND FUTURES.
GETTYSBURG WAS A FAMOUS BATTLE.



AN ODE TO RIHANNA

YOU ARE SHINING LIKE A DIAMOND.
I LIKE THE WAY YOU SHINE LIKE A DIAMOND.
I LOVE YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE A DIAMOND.
ARE YOU THE GIRL WHO SHINES LIKE DIAMONDS ON THE RADIO?
CAN I ASK YOU
WHERE YOU LIVE AND
WILL YOU BE MY GROUP HOME MANAGER?
RHIANNA,
YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL AND SHINE LIKE A DIAMOND.

JULY

THE MOUNTAIN

YOU ARE AN INCREDIBLE GIANT,
I FEEL GREAT THAT YOU EXIST.
I LOVE YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE PART OF NATURE.
I LOVE YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE ONE OF A KIND.
CAN I ASK YOU, HOW DID YOU COME INTO EXISTENCE?
NATURE, YOU ARE SIMPLY THE BEST

1ST PLACE

FREE FLOWING WATER

THE FLOWING, RAGING WATERS.
PASS THROUGH THE DYING TREES.
THEY GLISTEN AND SPARKLE IN THE SUN.
THE BEAUTY OF THE WATERFALL
MAKES ME HAPPY.

2ND PLACE

JULY

CELEBRATE NATIONAL PARKS MONTH - THE DESERT HAS LIFE

CIVET CAT, DON'T DO THAT,
EAT A CAT.
NO BUNNIES,
LEAVE PETER ALONE
(THE BUNNY THAT IS).
CIVET CAT, EAT TO CHEAT
THAT MOUSE AND BUG.
BE THE LIFE OF THE PARTY.
EAT MICE,
TWICE!
CIVET CAT YOU SMELL,
LIKE HELL.
SKUNKS GOT NOTHIN' ON YOU.
IF YOU ARE SPRAYED BY THE CIVET CAT,
YOU'LL NEED TOMATO JUICE
AND TO KNOW WHERE TO FIND A SHOWER.
THAT'S WHERE IT'S AT!

3RD PLACE

JULY

REBIRTH

STAND IN AT THE BIRTH OF PRECIOUS LOVERS,
WHO EITHER LOVE OR HATE TO FAIL.
THE WAY THE WEATHER CHANGES, TO MATE OR
CHOOSE TO BE ALONE.
THE WREN AFTER BIRTH FEEDS THEIR CHILDREN
WITH ANTS. THEY THEN PROTECT THEM.
IT IS HARD TO CHOOSE THE WAY OF THEIR LIFE.
PEOPLE WON'T KNOW.

RAIN FOREST

PIT PAT SPRINKLING OF THE RAIN.
THE BIOME OF RAGING COLORS.
THE CREAKING OF THE TREES' FAME.
ARE THEY, THE TREES YOURS?

JULY

CELEBRATE NATIONAL PARK MONTH - OREGON SURF

THE TIDE SLAMS AGAINST THE SHORELINE WHEN
THE LUNAR GRAVITY CAUSES THE TIDE TO RISE.
AS THE MOON LIGHT FALLS ON THE OREGON SURF
IT CASTS LIGHT ON THE OREGON COAST.
WHERE THE TIDE SWIFTLY EBBS FROM THE ROCKY
EDGE OF THE SHORE AND SOON AFTER FLOWS
RIGHT BACK ASHORE BEATING AGAINST THE
ROCKY COAST.

MAJESTIC GLORY

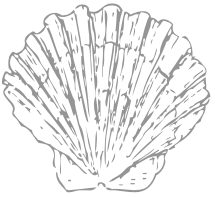
BIRD FLIES OVER THE MOUNTAIN.
HEARD THE CALL,
AND I YELL, "SHEPHERD ME OH GOD!"

JULY

SUNRISE

SEEING A NEW SUN LIFE,
COMFORT AND WORTHY OF PRAISE.
PICKING UP SEASHELLS.

A SYMBOL, RELIC.
ALL WAS NEW NOT THERE BEFORE.
PROOF THAT I WAS HERE.



GROWING UP ALIEN

I LIKE ALIENS.
I HOPE THEY LIKE ME.
THEIR SPACESHIPS,
ONE ON STRIKE.
I SIT THERE WITH HOPE,
WAITING FOR THEM TO LAND.

THERE'S A LOT OF SPACESHIPS.
THEY SPIKE UP AND LIGHTS SPIN AROUND.
THEY MAKE A FUNNY SOUND
WHEN THEY HIT THE GROUND.

AUGUST

CONGENIAL ME

A FRIEND TO ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL.
A PICTURE IN A FEW WORDS.
BORN TO MY MOTHER IN TEANECK, NEW JERSEY.
MY FATHER IS UNKNOWN.
I'VE LEARNED TO PLEASE PEOPLE.
THINKING OF MY CHILDHOOD REMINDS ME OF MY DAUGHTERS.
I WISH I COULD FLOOD THE CITY WITH CANDY AND BALLOONS FOR THEM.
I WISH I COULD BRING THEM TO ARIZONA.
MY DAUGHTERS ARE A PART OF THE PICTURE THAT IS ME.
I WISH I WAS MORE OF THE PICTURE THAT IS THEM.
LIVE LIKE A ROSE.
TEARS FROM HEAVEN.
LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED.

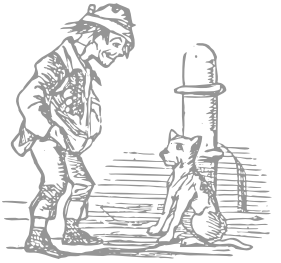
1ST PLACE

AUGUST

THE SAD ONES DOG

STRANGERS IN THE PARK.
HEAR DAY DOG BARK.
SEE THE HUMMINGBIRDS FLY,
GOING FOR A PLANE RIDE,
ON A TRIP TO THE SKY.

2ND PLACE



COOL

COLD SEA,
GOOD IS ALL.
I JUMP INTO THE WATER,
LIKE A BALL.

3RD PLACE

AUGUST

CHERRY BLOSSOMS TO THE EYES

CHERRY BLOSSOMS BLOOM.
WE CAN SMELL THE CHERRY BLOSSOM
THROUGH OPEN WINDOWS.

MY FRIENDS

MY FRIENDS AND I EXPLORED THE FOREST.
MY PLAN WAS TO LIVE IN NATURE PEACEFULLY.
I WANNA GO TO SEE JESUS.
I DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GO BUT THERE'S A SECRET PASSAGEWAY.
THE LORD WILL GUIDE ME TO HIS BUS STOP.
I WANNA BE IN NATURE.
IT MAKES ME HAPPY.

CALM AND RELAXING

I THINK YOU ARE THE MOST LOVELY PEACH IN THE WORLD.
I GOT SOME BUBBLY BUBBLEGUM.
I'M GLAD TO BE FREE.
I HAD A GOOD DAY.

AUGUST

DIVERSITY

DIFFERENT PEOPLE, DIFFERENT BELIEFS,
ARE NICE AND KIND.
THEY'RE EASY TO FIND.
THEY ARE LOVELY AND HELPFUL.
VERY CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL.
RESPECT ALL BELIEFS.

AMERICAN ARTISTS APPRECIATION MONTH: AMERICAN GOTHIC

IT WAS A WONDROUS BELIEF WHEN
THEY WOULD GET THEIR RELIEF.
HIS PITCHFORK WOULD BECOME,
EVEN IN FARMLAND,
A NEW BIKE, IF MY NAME WAS
SPIKE.
THE NEW BELIEF IS THAT THE
FARMS WILL BE REDUCED,
BUT THEY WILL BE FINE,
PEOPLE ARE STILL EATING FOOD
AND THAT IS THEIR BELIEF.

CHESTER

ONE DAY I WAS AMONGST PEOPLE
AND LET A BIG FART.
ONE BY ONE FROM THE ELDEST
THEY BEGAN TO DEPART.
ONCE I BEGAN TO RETAIN
KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT TOOK PLACE,
ONCE IN VAIN,
I WAS FALLEN FROM GRACE.

SEPTEMBER

CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH - MEXICAN DANCING HORSE

AS THE GRAY HORSE DANCES,
HE DANCES IN GREAT EASE.
RIDER, WITH HER DRESS OVER
HER KNEES.
AT THE END OF THE DANCE,
AS THE HORSE DOES PRANCE,
WITH THE MUSICIANS IN BIG
STRAW HATS.
SHE WILL DANCE WITH THE
MARIACHI BAND NEXT.

1ST PLACE

SEPTEMBER

SWEET FRUIT

SOMETIMES THE COMFORTS OF LIFE
ARE ONLY TEMPORARY
AND SOMETIMES THEY ARE OVERCOME
BY CRUELTY.
BOTTOM LINE IS YOU MUST RELY ON
THE FRUIT OF THE LAND.
WHAT IF THERE IS NO FRUIT?
YOU CAN RELY ON YOUR SURVIVAL
SKILLS.
LOOK FOR THE OASIS.

2ND PLACE

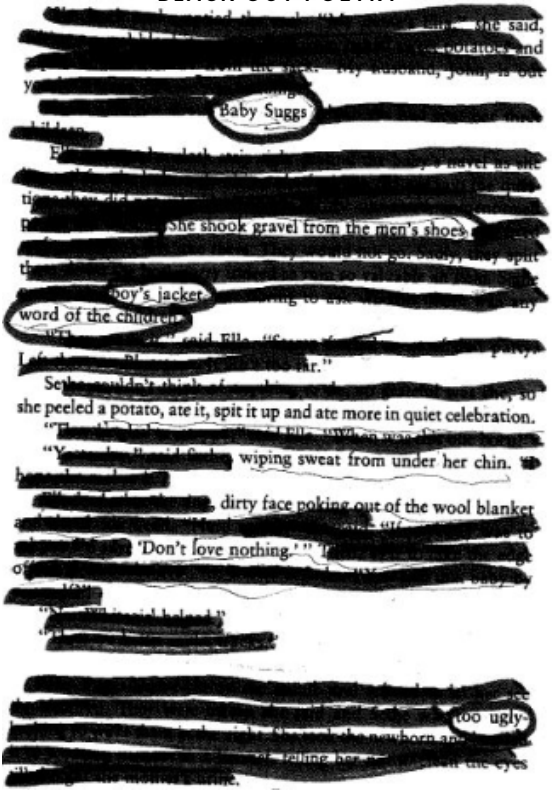
BEACH PARADISE

IT'S ABOUT THE SANDS OF TIME.
EVERYTHING BRIGHT & RIGHT RHYME.
I WANT TO GO TO OUTER SPACE.
THAT'S WHY I'M IN MY PLACE.

3RD PLACE

SEPTEMBER

BANNED BOOKS AWARENESS MONTH - BELOVED
BLACK OUT POETRY

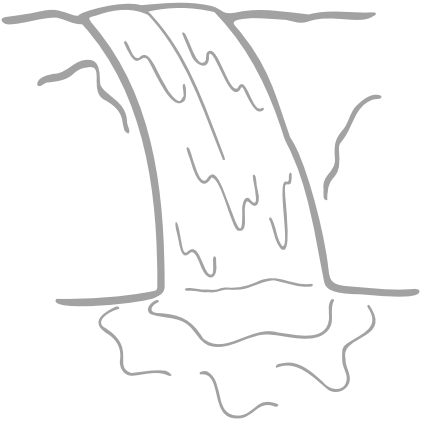

said,
Baby Suggs
She shook gravel from the men's shoes
boy's jacket
word of the children
she peeled a potato, ate it, spit it up and ate more in quiet celebration.
wiping sweat from under her chin.
dirty face poking out of the wool blanket
'Don't love nothing.'
too ugly

BABY SUGGS,
SHE SHOOK GRAVEL FROM THE MEN'S SHOES.
BOY'S JACKET, WORD OF THE CHILDREN.
SHE PEELED A POTATO, ATE IT, SPIT IT UP
AND ATE MORE IN QUIET CELEBRATION,
WIPING SWEAT FROM UNDER HER CHIN.
DIRTY FACE POKING OUT OF THE WOOL BLANKET
"DON'T LOVE FOR NOTHING,
TOO UGLY."

SEPTEMBER

FALLING WATER

A HARD TOUCH OF WATER
FROM THE FATHER.
THE BUBBLY FOAM AT THE BASE.
THE SPRAYS TOUCH YOU ON YOUR FACE.



MUSTANGS

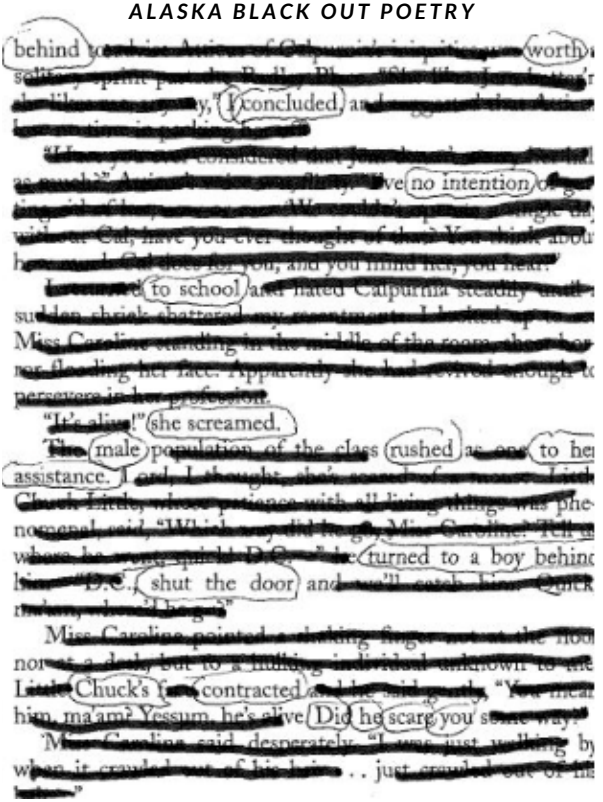
THE FOUR HORSES SNORE,
NEAR THE BARN DOOR.

DESERT HAS LIFE

ASTRONOMY,
AND SAND,
AND BATS,
AND BEES.

SEPTEMBER

BANNED BOOKS AWARENESS MONTH - LOOKING FOR ALASKA BLACK OUT POETRY



BEHIND WORTH,
I CONCLUDED NO INTENTION TO SCHOOL.
SHE SCREAMED.
MALE RUSHED TO HER ASSISTANCE.
TURNED TO A BOY, BEHIND.
"SHUT THE DOOR"
CHUCK'S CONTRACTED.
"DID HE SCARE YOU?"

OCTOBER

MOUNTAIN TO VALLEY

MOUNTAINS.
MASSIVE MOUNTAINS GIVE
PASSES,
LIKE THE ROCKS ARE A SIEVE,
TO VALLEY BELOW.

1ST PLACE

OCTOBER

AGHAST WITH FEAR

I WAS AGHAST
AT HOW BIG THE ABYSS WAS.
THE AFFLICTION IN MY MIND,
SHOWN TO ME.

2ND PLACE

CASPER

GHOSTS ARE SPIRITS OF THE
DEAD.
BOO THEY SAID,
EVERYBODY RAN AWAY
BUT CASPER WANTED TO PLAY
BECAUSE HE IS A FRIEND.
BUT HE'S TOO LITTLE,
THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.

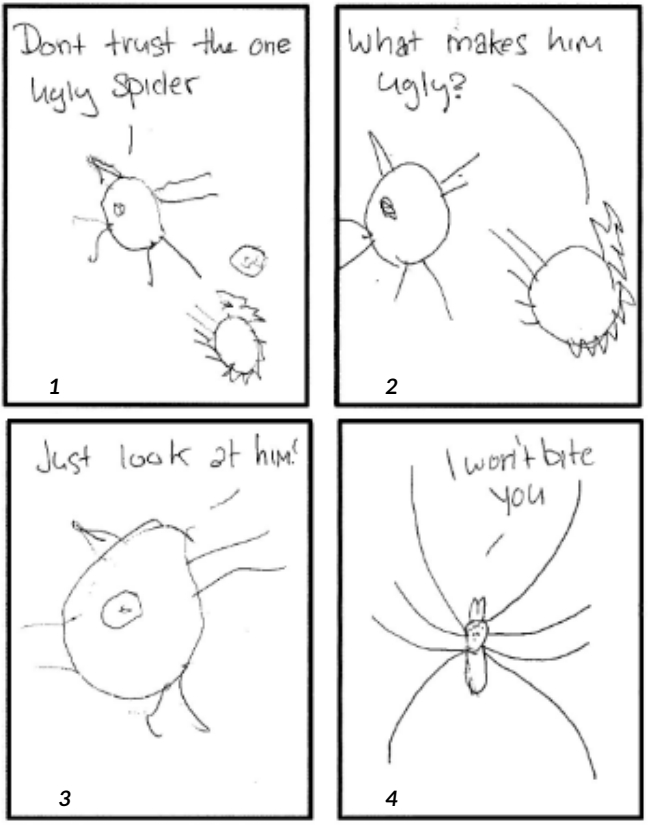
3RD PLACE

OCTOBER

HOME LOAN

I NEEDED TO MOVE OUT OF MY PARENTS HOME.
SO I GOT A LOAN,
SINCE MORE RENT AND DON'T OWN.

WHERE A SPIDER DWELLS



OCTOBER

SEE WITH EYES UNCLOUDED BY…

STRETCH OUT THE RIDE,
ENJOY THE COUNTRYSIDE.
THE EXCITEMENT OF NEW THINGS.
AVOID THE STINGS.
THE CONTINUOUS LIFE.
NEED A WIFE.

I HAD BEEN PLANNING THE PERFECT VACATION BUT...

I TRIED SKIING AND I FELL DOWN THE MOUNTAIN. THEN THE ICE BROKE AND I FELL IN A HOLE, ALMOST DYING. THEN I DEVELOPED SMALLPOX AND HYPOTHERMIA. SOME STRANGE KID SAW ME STRUGGLE, THEN HE TOOK OFF HIS SUSPENDERS AND THREW THEM AT ME AND HE PULLED ME OUT. THE SMALLPOX HAD TO BE TREATED WITH HEPATITIS-B VACCINE AND I LEARNED THAT SKIING JUST WASN'T MY TALENT, THAT NO ONE BUT NO ONE WHO HAS SENSE SHOULD EVER GO SKIING. TOO MANY DANGERS ON THE ICE. SO I GOT UP AND RAN TO MY CAR BUT FOUND OUT THE ENGINE WAS OVERHEATED. OUT OF THE BLUE I SAW ANOTHER CAR DRIVING. I FLAGGED HIM DOWN AND ASKED HIM FOR JUMPER CABLES AND THANK GOD HE HAD THEM! THEN CAR STARTED AND I DROVE HOME.

OCTOBER

AUTUMN SENSES

SEE A FOREST.
HEAR INSECTS.
SMELL PRETTY OXYGEN.

DINNER, LOBSTER & RUBIES

DESIRE.
DINNER FOR TWO,
JUST ME AND YOU,
AND MOVIE NIGHT FOR THE CHILDREN.
LOVE AT NIGHT,
PERFECT AND RIGHT.
A STRONG DESIRE.
THE LAST THING IS DESERT,
RUBIES AND A STRONG DESIRE,
FOR A RED ROSE
AND A DANCE.

REMNANTS OF ALGAE

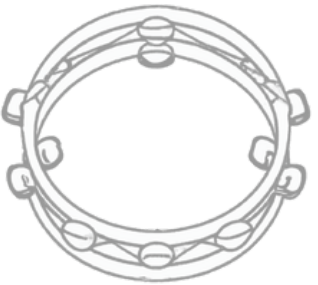
SOME OF THE DEAD,
WASHED CLEAN WITH THE SEA WATER,
IT'S LIGHT SHINES WITHIN.

NOVEMBER

SHE LOOKS SAD

SHE'S IN HER OUTFIT READY TO
EAT FANCY CUISINE.
HER JACKET HAS A PRETTY
SEAM.
HER MOM YELLED AT HER, IT
WAS MEAN.
SHE IS FRUSTRATED BECAUSE
SHE CAN'T LEARN THE
TAMBOURINE.
SO SHE WENT TO GO SLEEP IN A
RAVINE.

1ST PLACE



NOVEMBER

DIAMOND ICY WORLD

BEAUTIFUL GLACIERS OF
BELOW ZERO TEMPERATURE.
MASSIVE COLDNESS,
MAGNIFICENT ICY STRUCTURES.
IN THE ARCTIC STRATOSPHERE
OF THIS WORLD,
BLESS THE GLACIERS FROM
GLOBAL WARMING,
AS THE WORLD IS TURNING,
AS ALL THE HUMANS ARE
YEARNING
FOR FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND
MORE.

2ND PLACE

NOVEMBER

CITY IN THE HILLS

A CITY IN THE HILLS, CLAIMS
NO FALSEHOOD.
EVERY LITTLE HOME NEEDS A
LITTLE FIREWOOD.
TO KEEP IT WARM, IT'S COLD
WITHOUT THE WOOD.
I CAN REMEMBER MY
CHILDHOOD,
SOMETIMES MISUNDERSTOOD.
IT'S NOT WHAT COULD,
IT'S NOT WHAT WOULD,
IT'S WHAT'S GOOD.

3RD PLACE

NOVEMBER

SPRING CATERPILLAR

HE'S CRAWLING IN HIS PLACE
WHEN HE TURNS INTO A BUTTERFLY,
HE WILL HAVE A PRETTY FACE.
HE MAKES HIS HOUSE CLEAN AND TAME.
HERMES IS HIS NAME.

NOVEMBER RAIN, NOVEMBER RAIN,

THE GROUND IS PLAIN.
THIS HOLLOWED GROUND.
THE LEAVES ARE NOT FOUND,
BARREN.

COMPASS

THE DESIGN WAS ALWAYS IN THE MIND.
THE FINE TIME.
THE CRAFT'S FOCUS IS ALWAYS
ON THE PERFECT MIND.

NOVEMBER

IN THE SPRINGTIME.

WHERE'S THE PLACE?
I REMEMBER THE FACE.
SHE'S MY FLAME.
AND SHE'S GOT MY NAME.

PEOPLE FROM PUEBLO

PROUDLY WE CHANGE CORN…
IT'S CORAZÓN, FROM MY EXCHANGE.
IT'S LOVELY.

NOVEMBER RAIN, NOVEMBER RAIN,

THE GOD'S THRESHOLD, SKIES.
BLESSING, SO LOVING AND INCREDIBLE.
RAIN SHOWER, A REMINISCENT OF
NOVEMBER RAIN.
THE SKY'S TO BLAME.
NOVEMBER RAIN.

DECEMBER

IT'S CHRISTMAS

SHINING STAR ABOVE A TREE.
A MANGER SCENE BELOW.
THE BIRTHDAY OF JESUS.
BRINGING GIFTS AND JOY.
ON EARTH PEACE AND GOODWILL TOWARDS MEN.
CHOIRS SINGING CRYSTAL BELLS.
CHRISTMAS PARADES.
FLOAT CONTESTS.
CANDY CANES TO HANG AND EAT.
GINGERBREAD HOUSES AND CHRISTMAS SHAPED
SUGAR COOKIES.
HOLIDAY LIGHTS.
ZOO LIGHTS, LIGHTS THAT MOVE AROUND TO MUSIC.
SNOW AND SNOWMEN.
SANTA CLAUS AND ELVES.
SANTA'S GIFT SHOP.
SURPRISES FROM THE NORTH POLE.
REINDEER AND SLEIGHS.
STOCKINGS AND MISTLETOE HUNG.
GRINCH STEALING THE FEAST AND TOYS AT NIGHT.
THE TURKEY AND THE HONEY HAM.
THE SWEET POTATO AND PUMPKIN PIES.
THE STUFFING AND THE COLLARD GREENS.
THE MAC AND CHEESE.
DAIRY QUEEN PUMPKIN PIE SUNDAES WITH FUDGE.
THE SIGHTS, THE SOUNDS, THE SMELLS, THE JOY OF
CHRISTMAS
IS HERE AGAIN.

1ST PLACE

DECEMBER

WINTER TIME

I'D LIKE TO SEE AN INCH OF SNOW, NOT A LOT.
BE CAREFUL BECAUSE THE SNOW IS COLD.
YOU CAN EAT NEW SNOW BUT DON'T EAT IT WHEN IT'S OLD.
OR WHEN IT STARTS LOOKING YELLOW OR GOLD.
IT'S MAGICAL WHEN IT COMES TO TOWN,
WHEN IT FALLS SLOWLY DOWN.
LIKE SPARKLING CRYSTAL RAIN,
EACH SNOWFLAKE IS DIFFERENT.
NONE OF THEM ARE THE SAME OR PLAIN.
IT'S COOL WHEN THEY'RE FLOATING DOWN.
STICK YOUR TONGUE OUT, LET THEM MELT BEFORE THEY LAND ON THE GROUND.
IT TICKLES WHEN IT LANDS ON YOUR NOSE.
THE WORLD LOOKS COVERED IN A SOFT PRETTY WHITE SHEET THAT FROZE.
THE KIDS LOVE IT.
THEY CAN MAKE SNOWBALLS, SNOWMEN AND SNOW ANGELS.
THEY JUST CAN'T QUIT.
IT'S FUN TO HAVE SNOWBALL FIGHTS.
TO SEE FROSTY THE SNOWMAN DRESSED IN WHITE.
SNOW IS PERFECT IN EVERY WAY.
UNTIL IT MELTS INTO A MEMORY
OF A PERFECT DAY.
FROSTY WILL BE BACK AGAIN ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

2ND PLACE

DECEMBER

KITCHEN SINK MUSIC

IF YOU SING A SONG THAT WAS WRITTEN,
YOU'D HOPE IT WAS WRITTEN WELL.
AND DOES NOT HAVE EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK.
THE KITCHEN SINK IN A SONG IS NOT THE MISSING LINK.
THE SONG WAS WRITTEN IN INDELIBLE INK.
SO DRINK UP,
ENJOY AND RECEIVE A SONG THAT'S IN SYNC.

3RD PLACE

DECEMBER

THINKING OF YOU.

MY HEART FEELS BLUE.
LOVE TO BE WITH YOU.
THAT'S A LOT TO CHEW.
THAT'S LOVING YOU.

CHRISTMAS WARM

LOVE IS WARM SWEATER IN WINTER.
LOVE IS A JOYFUL SIGN OF WINTER COMING.
LOVE CAN BE FAIR IN THE SEARCH.
LOVE IS CANDY ON THE BENCH.
CHRISTMAS, DO NOT OPEN
UNTIL YOU OPEN WITH CARE.

GINGER BREAD COOKIE MAN

GINGER BREAD,
BETTER TO STUDY MED.
COOKIE MAN, HOLLY JOLLY,
DOING MASTER PLAN.
SANTA CLIES,
READY TO MOVE STOCKINGS,
AND SEAT,
IF WE EXCITE THE PARALLELOGRAM.

DECEMBER

COLD BLOW

WINTER SNOW DAYS ARE BEAUTIFULLY COLD.
SNOW TIMES ARE COLD, THEN MOST OUTSIDE
SNOW
IS OLD.
CONSTANTLY BLOWING ALL WINTER ALL WINTER
LONG.
WITH LOVE FOR ALL.

END OF THE YEAR SPIRIT

THE JOY OF FAMILY ONES.
THE HOLIDAY FUN.
EXPECTATIONS OF CANDLELIGHT DINNER.
FINDING YOU MAKES ME A WINNER.
AT BLISS WITH LIFE.

AUTHORS' COMMENTS

Participating authors were asked if they would like to include their thoughts about the writing process and what creative writing activities meant to them.

Individuals were asked a series of questions, including "How does writing poetry make you feel?", "How did winning make you feel?" and if there was anything else they'd like to share about the creative writing groups.

These are some of their responses:

"POETRY MAKES ME FEEL GRATEFUL THAT I CAN EXPRESS MYSELF AND IT ALSO GIVES ME MOTIVATION TO DO BETTER IN MY LIFE. WHEN I WIN, ALL THINGS ARE GOOD IN MY LIFE."

"WRITING POETRY MAKES ME FEEL HAPPY. WINNING MAKES ME FEEL ECSTATIC!"

"WRITING IS EXCITING. WHEN I WIN, I FEEL LOVED, I FEEL MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE."

"ON THE TOPIC OF POETRY: I LOVE RHYMING, CONNECTING WORDS AND WORD PHRASES. LIFE IS WONDEROUS, WORDS COULD HURT AND WORDS COULD BRING LIFE. I PRAY THAT MY WORDS STRENGTHEN AND BRING LIFE, WITH LOVE AND PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING."

"WRITING IS TO ME LIKE MY MIND TELLING ME I NEED TO RELEASE AND IT'S GOOD WHEN YOU KNOW YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING. WINNING POEMS ARE A PART OF MY LIFE BECAUSE THEY HELP ME THROUGH TOUGH TIMES, THEY HELP ME WITH MY UPS AND DOWNS."

"WRITING MAKES ME FEEL GOOD."

"WRITING GIVES AN EXONERATION TO THE TECHNIQUE TO THE FLOW OF CHI FROM WHICH I BEHOLD UPON MY THIRD EYE. WINNING MAKES ME FEEL ACCEPTED. WRITING OPENS UP A NEW BORDER BY CHANGING BRASS INTO SILVER AND SILVER INTO GOLD.IT GIVES A NEW AND APPROVED PERSPECTIVE OF A MINDFUL PERCEPTION OF REALITY."

"I LIKE THE WRITING GROUPS. IT'S QUIET AND YOU CAN REALLY TRAIN YOUR MIND TO FOCUS. I HOPE TO WRITE MORE INTROSPECTIVELY AND I LIKE WORKING WITH OTHER PEOPLE WHO CAN REFLECT ON WHAT I WRITE."

"I'M GOOD AT POETRY, I LIKE RHYMING."

"I LOVE WRITING GROUPS BECAUSE I'M AN INSPIRATION TO OTHERS. WINNING MADE ME FEEL GOOD. GOD INSPIRES ME, GIVES ME TALENTS UNKNOWN. I LOVE TO MAKE PEOPLE SMILE AND MY WRITING CAN MAKE THEM FEEL BETTER ABOUT THEMSELVES."

"WRITING MAKES ME FEEL GOOD, IT'S A WAY TO EXPRESS FEELINGS. WHEN I'VE WROTE POEMS TO PEOPLE THAT REALLY TAKE IT TO HEART, IT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN I WROTE A TRIBUTE TO MY BROTHER, IT MOVED PEOPLE TO TEARS. A COUPLE OF GUYS SAID THEY NORMALLY WOULDN'T CRY BUT IT MOVED THEM SO MUCH. I WAS BLESSED BECAUSE BOTH OF MY GRANDPARENTS WROTE AND RECITED POEMS. WRITING PRESERVES HISTORY. AND YOU CAN GET TO KNOW PEOPLE THAT OTHERWISE YOU WILL NEVER MEET. WINNING MAKES ME FEEL GOOD-TO SET A GOAL AND ACCOMPLISH IT."

"I FEEL GOOD ABOUT HAVING A WRITING CONTEST, IT MAKES ME SMARTER. I KNOW I CAN DO IT ON MY OWN AND IT GIVES ME PRIDE TO KNOW THAT I HAVE THAT TALENT. I WOULD LIKE TO TEACH PEOPLE ABOUT POETRY BECAUSE I'M GOOD AT IT. I AM HAPPY THAT I CAN WRITE IN MY OWN WORDS, IT HELPS TO HAVE THEM DOWN ON A PIECE OF PAPER."

"IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD THAT I AM BEING POSITIVE AND MOVING TOWARD THE FUTURE. I ENJOY GROUPS WITH MY PEERS."

"I LIKE WRITING, I WANT MORE TIME TO WRITE. I DIDN'T GET TO WRITE WITH ANYONE BEFORE I CAME HERE, IT'S BENEFICIAL."

"IT'S GOOD, IT'S LIKE GOING TO SCHOOL, IT MAKES US SMARTER."

"MY BIGGEST THING IS THE HELP YOU GET WHEN YOU HAVE TO START YOUR BRAIN OVER-WITH THERAPISTS AND TEACHERS, IN A WAY. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE LEADERSHIP."

"WRITING/POETRY HELPS EXPRESS EMOTIONS. POETRY IS SHORTER AND TAKES LESS TIME. IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD WHEN I WIN BUT KINDA GUILTY TOO BECAUSE I FEEL I DON'T DESERVE IT. WINNING IS LIKE INDULGING YOURSELF IN THAT PIECE OF DESERT."

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"POETRY IS WHEN AN EMOTION HAS FOUND ITS THOUGHT AND THE THOUGHT HAS FOUND WORDS"

ROBERT FROST